

THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE STUDENT JOURNAL

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WEEK OF JANUARY 25TH



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Letters to the Editor: Making a Point...

[Note: Letters to The Point are occasionally edited for length or potential libel, but not for grammar or usage]

To Whom,

Well, I guess I should start with my purpose from sending this email. Today I was board as usual; so I picked up the latest copy of "the point" to maybe relieve this feeling of boredom for a few minutes and to clear my head. I was able to do the second part. I read "the point" from cover to cover and for the most part I found it to be dry. Now, my question, is do you people know that your paper is dry? The stories I am sure are of interest to some, but really how many?

I saw the same thing with your paper last term as well, and I was going to send in one of those comment forms that kept showing up toward the end of the term to fill wasted space, but like usual procrastination got the best of me, and I did not. So why have I written today? Well it's two a.m., I can't sleep as usual and felt like putting my other writings to the side for a few minutes and tell "the point" what I think, you people might like to know, and how I think your paper could use improving. The only change I seem to see (which might have been a result of those comment forms) is more cartoons. I think they are good, but no one picks up a paper for cartoons.

My suggestion would be to add in more human-interest stories. I not sure if that is the kind of image you would like to portray or not. I have been going to FSC for over a year now and I have yet to see any real encouragement for students to take part in education type endeavors on the papers part (or any real suggestions of what might be worth going to see). I have gone to a fair amount of these lectures on campus, and found them to be interesting. I did see that you were looking for A&E editor and maybe that is where the "problem" stems from, there might not be anyone to cover such things. I also thought it might be interesting to see a column based on some kind of reading of any sort (ex. New releases, classics, poetry, anything) seeing we are talking about a college newspaper. My final suggestion, I would like to see is a type of philosophical column. I think there should be some stories in the paper that look at a fairly simple subject and bring it into a "new light" maybe get someone to sit back and think or just say "wow" I never thought of it like that.

I guess what I would like to suggest, now is if you cannot find someone to write such articles I have plenty of ideas and am a fairly opinionated person (and as I said I have the time). No one, I think, has a better idea of what I would like to see then me. I think it would even be possible to mix the three ideas into one and that would make for an interesting read. Another side note, I thought of was a column about the stories of some of the students that go to FSC and their "story", I am sure their must be a few interesting people around the campus.

You can email me back if you like any of my ideas, or if not just toss them as if from a guy rambling on at two in the morning for the sake of seeing himself type.

Mark Whittemore

Mr. Whittemore:

Thank you for taking the time to set your other writings aside and drop us a line. While it is always fascinating to me personally to hear the details of what a self-proclaimed procrastinator plans on writing, I would much rather see the finished products.

A number of your points are valid and are things we are working on. The problem now, as ever, is one of staffing. There are over a dozen editorial and managment positions required to operate the journal at peak efficiency. Of those, we have filled less than half. While it is all well and good to fire off a message expressing displeasure with the paper (Been there. Done that.), it is quite different to actually put those words into action.

Don't have the time to work on the journal? Fine, then write some of these things you want to see in the paper and submit them. We are always ready to accept submissions from any member of the faculty, administration or student body of FSC. Last semester we rejected only three articles, two for writing quality and the third because the author was an ex-student with a personal (and libelous) axe to grind. For the most part, with those exceptions, we will try anything once.

So, Mr. Whittenmore, or anyone else who has a story suggestion, column idea or simply wants to put their two cents in, don't talk about it. Do it. Submissions can be sent through campus mail, e-mailed to point@fsc.edu or turned in at the office located past the commuter cafe in the Hammond Building basement.

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Editor-in-Chief

THE POINT

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FACULTY ADVISOR

Doris Schmidt

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

check out all
the rude people

by Jennifer Chamallas

HEY, KIDS! IT'S TIME FOR THE ALL NEW ADVENTURES OF...
GEORGIE BUSH--BOY PRESIDENT!
THIS WEEK'S EPISODE: BACK TO THE FUTURE!

BE CAREFUL, GEORGIE!
THAT TIME MACHINE IS
A TOP-SECRET PENTAGON
PROTOTYPE!

DON'T WORRY, MR. CHENEY!
I USED TO FLY FIGHTER
JETS, YOU KNOW--BACK
WHEN I WAS DEFENDING
TEXAS FROM THE VIET
CONG!



WITH THE HELP OF HIS TIME MACHINE, GEORGIE
REACHES FAR INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TO
ASSEMBLE A CABINET FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST!

ALL RIGHT, FUTURE BOY--WHAT ARE THE DAMN
COMMIES UP TO THESE DAYS?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE
ECONOMY? HAVE WE
"WHIPPED INFLATION
NOW" YET?

UM--MAYBE YOU
GUYS BETTER
TALK TO MR.
CHENEY.



UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESS BEGINS TO NOTICE THAT
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON...

SIR--AREN'T YOU
AFRAID OF DAMAG-
ING THE SPACE-
TIME CONTINUUM
WITH THESE NOMI-
NATIONS?

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE AND
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN--I'M
NOT GOING TO COMMENT
ON ANYTHING I MAY OR
MAY NOT HAVE DONE IN
THE PAST!



BUT THINGS REALLY GET OUT OF HAND WHEN JOHN
ASHCROFT TAKES THE TIME MACHINE OUT FOR A
SPIN!

GEORGIE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A COUPLE OF
HEROES OF MINE--STONEWALL JACKSON
AND ROBERT E. LEE!

HEY, I THINK I READ ABOUT YOU
FELLAS! I WAS A HISTORY MAJOR,
YOU KNOW!

AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
A DEKE!

BOOLA
BOOLA!

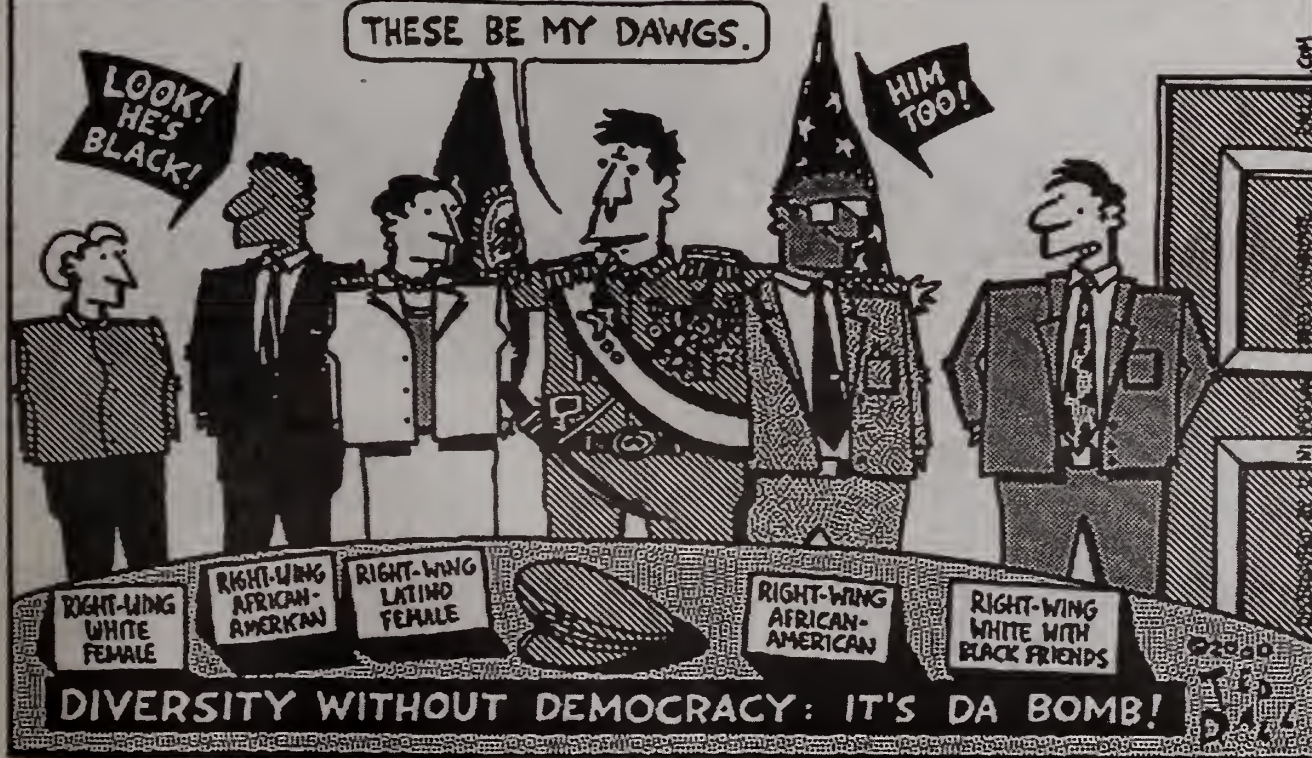


GENERALISSIMO EL BUSHO PRESENTS A CABINET THAT LOOKS LIKE AMERICA

THESE BE MY DAWGS.

LOOK!
HE'S
BLACK!

HIM
TOO!



DIVERSITY WITHOUT DEMOCRACY: IT'S DA BOMB!

"Excuse me, miss, are you open?
That cashier over there rang in my
soda twice. Can you take that off?"

"You forgot to take this 15-cent
coupon off my \$200 bill."

"I see you're busy, but can I have
my groceries in double paper - the
whole order, please, including the
milk."

"Miss, I think you are mistaken.
That scratch ticket won me a dollar.
You should check the machine, I
think it's broken."

Does that sound familiar? It does
if you're a retail or customer-ser-
vice worker. Of course, we deserve
it, because everything is our fault.
Just ask the guy who really wanted
milk in his coffee, but said he want-
ed cream.

As a customer-service employee,
I've seen every type of rude and
crude customer there is. What can
you say to these people? Of course,
you can mumble anything you want
under your breath, or even say it out
loud once they leave. But in the cus-
tomer-service field, you must be
nice and polite to everyone.

"The customer is always right."
I would really like to meet the per-
son who first said that, and give him
some input. The truth is that the cus-
tomer is not always right, and nei-
ther is the worker.

What do you do when the guy
with more than 12 items refuses to
get out of the express lane at the
grocery store? I have personally
handled this in a number of ways.

Before learning the proper way
to deal with rude, ignorant people, I
used to give him a piece of my
mind. Not only did he give it right
back, but I ended up in trouble and
he ended up getting his way.

The proper way to handle him,
according to my boss, was to tell
him that he wasn't allowed to go
through the express lane with that
many items, but that I would take
him this time. Then I was supposed

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FSC may give peace a chance...

by Allison Lahikainen

Eric Budd, an assistant professor in the Social Sciences department, met with interested faculty recently to discuss the addition of a Peace Studies minor to the curriculum at Fitchburg State College. Budd spoke about his proposal during a recent question-and-answer session with The Point.

Q: What, exactly, is a Peace Studies minor?

A: A Peace Studies minor would address such issues as the origins of war and peace, conflict resolution, as well as the impact of conflict on global, national and individual levels. It would be an interdisciplinary minor encompassing the social sciences (political science and history), behavioral sciences (psychology and sociology), English, and the creative arts.

Q: How would the students benefit from the minor?

A: The students would benefit by learning about conflict - its origins, and how it can be resolved. Human society is rife with conflict, so it is important to understand the political and socioeconomic origins of conflict, as well as the ways conflict can be resolved. In addition, the minor will expose students to some of the philosophical beliefs about violence and conflicts of great leaders such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nelson Mandela.

Q: What types of programs or classes would be featured within the minor?

A: Currently, the college offers a course titled Dilemmas of Peace and War. We also plan to create a new course titled Introduction to Peace Studies. In addition, faculty members have expressed an interest in creating new courses on con-

flict resolution, peace (and war) in literature, religious/philosophical teachings concerning violence and conflict in the international arena. The minor will have a natural connection with the college's existing programs in international studies, criminal justice, counseling, and the Leadership Academy.

Q: What sort of careers can a Peace Studies minor lead to?

A: Concerning careers, one area of growing demand in society is for individuals who can teach conflict-resolution skills in the schools or in the workplace. Thus, some students minoring in Peace Studies might gravitate toward these jobs. FSC has a growing criminal-justice program, and conflict resolution/mediation is an important skill for individuals pursuing careers in this area.

Q: Do you think Peace Studies is a new, trendy option or are there other schools already offering such a minor?

A: Peace Studies is a growing field of academic inquiry. Many schools have established minors, or even majors, in Peace Studies.

Q: What was accomplished at the meeting last semester?

A: At the last meeting we resolved to distribute a survey to faculty to get a sense of what courses are currently being offered at FSC, or might be offered in the near future, that would be appropriate for inclusion in a Peace Studies minor. We hope to gauge what our strengths and weaknesses are before we begin the process of proposing the creation of a new minor. The faculty who are working to create the new minor recognize that the process is only just beginning, but are optimistic that ultimately this will come to fruition.

House of FYRE

by Brandy Sales

Floors 3, 4 and 5 in Aubuchon Hall, otherwise known as the First Year Residential Experience floors, are where you will find the Community Assistants. They are all sophomores who either were alternates for the Resident Assistant position or were interested in the job but not ready to become full-blown RAs. Their chief purpose is to build a community on their floor and, as a team, build a community throughout all the FYRE floors. The FYRE floors are designed specifically for freshman students. Each floor has a RA and a CA. This gives the freshman students the ability to go to more than one source to help them with the transition to college life. What, exactly, is the difference between an RA and a CA?

"Community Assistants are basically Resident Assistants who do not have duty," said Sarah Savoie, Senior RA for the 4th floor of Aubuchon. Tara Piccini, 11th floor RA, added, "Community Assistants are more like a friend/mentor to the residents and on the other hand, Resident Assistants are a figure of authority."

Building Director Scott Bergeron said, "The position of Community Assistant was created with the idea that they would be able to build a strong community on the lower floors of Aubuchon Hall" as well as helping new students make the transition into college.

Community Assistants go through the same training as Resident Assistants and are taught to handle all the same situations. However, in cases of alcohol, drugs or domestic violence, they are advised to get an RA instead of handling the situation themselves.

"This is probably the hardest part of the Community Assistant job, making a decision on what type of situations to throw yourself into and having to deal with the outcome," said 5th floor CA Chrissy Johnson.

Lynne Fitzgerald, 4th floor CA, said, "The easiest part is getting to know everyone. The hardest part is dealing with issues such as deaths in the family, failing out of school, contemplation of suicide, advising on how to handle an abusive boyfriend and various other personal subjects. I sometimes feel like the school counselor. I don't mind 'cause I love helping people. At times, it gets hard to deal with because a lot of my residents I consider my friends, so I get wrapped up into their emotions."

The underlying theme of the Community Assistant position is building a solid community throughout the FYRE floors. It seems to be working.

"Within the first two days I got to know just my floor," 3rd floor CA Roger Roy explained. "Then the next few days I ventured to another floor, then finally by the end of the first week I got to know the other floor. During week two, I and the other Community Assistants began to plan programming that involved all three floors instead of just our individual floors, and from there the community within the FYRE program began to build."

Fitzgerald said, "We all have a similar style to building community and I believe it really lies within how we conduct ourselves as role models and how we find the strengths and weaknesses of each and every floor in the FYRE program."

Johnson said, "I think we have done our jobs, people are having a good time. They have found best friends, girlfriends, boyfriends, and even soulmates," she chuckles. "Sure, we have a few problems here and there, but we handle them as we are trained to do."

Julie Robbins, associate director of Campus Living, said the FYRE has shown great improvement from last year's pilot year. "We have seen grades go up, less alcohol incidents on these floors, and we have seen more campus involvement from these floors as well. I know my Resident Assistants are doing their jobs and I am very certain the addition of the Community Assistants to these floors are making the difference."

"Shear Madness" shows sharp wit

by Courtney Parsons

"Why would I use scissors? If I wanted to kill her I could have bought her a Lark with Firestone tires!" This is just one of the trademark lines that changes with the times in the long-running hit comedy "Shear Madness." Two years ago, he said he could have bought her a Furby.

"Shear Madness," a comical whodunit, is currently being performed at the Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton St. in Boston. Originally produced in 1980 by Marilyn Abrams and Bruce Jordan, the show was adapted from German playwright Paul Portner's dramatic murder mystery "Scherenschnitt." It has been performed all over the world, and its record-breaking 20-year run at the Charles Playhouse has earned it a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records, where it is recognized as the longest-running nonmusical play in American theater history. It has won the Boston Globe Readers' Poll Award for Best Comedy of the Year seven times.

The play is set in a unisex hairstyling salon where a murder takes place; it is up to the audience to solve the mystery of who killed Isabel Czerny. The best part of the show is the solution is different every night.

The first act introduces the cast. There is Tony, a flamboyantly gay hairstylist who dares to wear fluorescent pink high tops and white shorts after Labor Day. His partner at work is Barbara DeMarco, a tough city girl who isn't all that smart - but her hair is blue, not blond.

On this particular day, their customers Mrs. Schubert, a member of the city's social elite; and Eddie Lawrence, an arrogant, fast-talking antiques dealer. Two other customers, the quiet

Mikey Thomas and the rather homophobic Nick Rossetti, are later revealed to be undercover detectives staking out the salon.

By the end of Act I, pianist Isabel Czerny is dead and everyone has been confined to the salon for interrogation. After a brief intermission, the audience gets to grill the four possible suspects and to help reconstruct the events prior to the murder. Then, the audience gets to decide who killed Isabel Czerny.

There is not one boring moment in this show, which has been customized to suit its Boston location. The actors sport thick Boston accents, and the salon is said to be located on Newbury Street. There are constant references to places and events in and around the city.

The acting in this show is incredible. I was surprised to learn from one of the actors that the show is scripted; it gives the impression of being completely improvised.

There are many casts in addition to the Boston troupe, since the show is produced all over the country and around the world.

"Shear Madness" is a show that I have highly recommended to many people. It's a great first-date show, but it is also appropriate for children. The closest thing to explicit content is a token kiss that Tony plants on Nick.

"Shear Madness" gets big laughs from a simple plot. It is one of those shows that you will want to see again and again.

Show times for "Shear Madness" are Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 and 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets for all shows cost \$34; they can be ordered by calling the box office at (617) 426-5225.

Berklee hosts second Music Career Expo

Get ready for the second annual Music Career Expo and Job Fair 2001 for music students, music college alumni, and anyone interested in a music career. The event takes place on Sunday, February 25, 2001 from 11:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston.

Attendees are encouraged to pre-register for the event, which drew more than 1,000 people last year. Admission for those who pre-register is \$10 for students with high school or college ID, \$15 for Berklee alumni, and \$25 for the general public. Admission at the door is on a space-available basis, and is \$15 for students with high school or college ID, \$25 for Berklee alumni, and \$35 for the general public.

For more information, or to register for the event, call (617) 747-8970.

Highly respected author and music attorney Donald S. Passman will be the keynote speaker of the event. The keynote address, "Can Music Survive in the Digital Age?" is sponsored by Berklee's Music Business/Management program under the auspices of the Zafris Lecture Series.

Donald S. Passman practices law with the Los Angeles-based firm of Gang, Tyre, Ramer, and Brown, and he has specialized in the music business for over twenty years. His clients include Janet Jackson, R.E.M., Mariah Carey, Lauryn Hill, Quincy Jones, Tina Turner, Randy Newman, and Tom Waits.

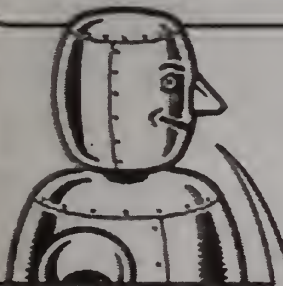
Mr. Passman is a graduate of the University of
Continued on page 8

RED MEAT

birds picking while you're still kicking

from the secret files of
Max Cannon

Hey, Mr. Bix...you're standin' in front of the front door. Could you move out of the way a little so I can go inside?



I'm sorry, but I can't allow you to jeopardize my mission.

What are you talking about? What mission?

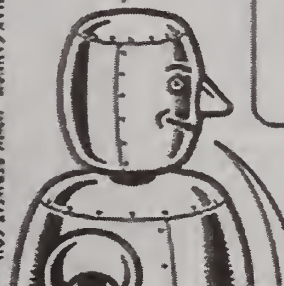


I'm afraid I can't tell you...it's classified.

Okay...but at least tell me who gave you this "mission."

Your father.

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Oh, I get it. Are he and Mom having a "Mr. and Ms. Nude Olympian" posedown contest in the living room again today?

Yes. I wasn't able to complete the judging yesterday due to uncontrollable gagging fits.

FUNNY BUSINESS AT FSC

Paula Poundstone

Comedian Paula Poundstone will perform at Fitchburg State College on Feb. 2 at 8:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. They are available at the Information Desk in the college's Campus Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call (978) 665-4480.

Poundstone was among a handful of comics who came to prominence in the 1980s. Her offbeat interpretations of everyday life, including the peaks and valleys of parenting since becoming a foster parent, come from her own experiences and have led to an ever-increasing list of accomplishments.

A frequent guest on the popular "Rosie O'Donnell Show," Poundstone did some "Roving Reporter" segments in which she visited such cities as Dallas and Atlanta to do slice-of-life taped pieces. She also guest-starred on the CBS series "Cybill," which led to a recurring role on that show. Poundstone currently provides the voice for the character of Judge Stone



on the animated series "Science Court" which debuted last fall on ABC's Saturday morning line-up. The series has been singled out as exemplary by FCC Chairman Reed Hundt and others for fulfilling the new mandate of being both educational and entertaining.

She currently is a regular on the new "To Tell the Truth" game show. Poundstone is both producer and voice on a children's audio book project titled "Completely Yours," which features a story about foster parenting along with nursery rhymes and songs. For the project, she enlisted the help of Mary Tyler Moore, Bea Arthur, Kathy Najimy, Ed Asner and Lily Tomlin. Poundstone also continues to crisscross the country for live performances at concert venues, colleges and corporate dates.

Stephen Lynch

Interview by Amy Bobrowski

Kalamazoo, although sounding like a word used by beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, is actually a town in Michigan. Dr. Seuss had his own style of humor and so does Stephen Lynch. The 29-year-old Kalamazooan musician/comedian will be performing in the Underground pub on January 29 as part of his 41-city national college tour to support his debut album, "A Little Bit Special." What exactly he will be performing is sure to surprise and shock the audience.

Lynch's routine consists of him, trusty guitar in hand, performing songs filled to the brim with sardonic humor. Jaws will drop, eyes will bulge, and stomachs will cramp as their owners double over with laughter. His musical style runs the gamut from rock to folk, but his comedic style is dark and twisted. What does Stephen Lynch have to say to this? "People can call it whatever they want, but to me it's just normal."



Normal, huh. How normal is it to find parents who support and actually encourage their child's ambition to go into acting and comedy? It is rare, but Lynch considers himself lucky to have parents like this. In fact, Stephen's brother, Drew shares the lucky parents and is doing the exact same thing in Chicago.

How normal is it for a person's hobby to turn into a very auspicious career? After studying acting at Western Michigan University, Stephen moved to LA and then to New York City. To him, his comedic music was just something to do on the side while waiting for his big acting break.

An even better break came when he performed at New York's Catch a Rising Star, an event that can be pinpointed as the jump pad of his career.

Continued on page 8



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RIDING THE DARK WAVE...

by Allison Lahikainen

Two years ago, in a small North Hampton apartment, a record label was born. The brainchild of Elysia David, Serena Emerson, and Devin Stevens, was called Nepenthacea (a plant from Greek mythology that washes away one's sorrows). It aimed to take the underground music and noise scene to a new level.

Nepenthacea was started because as David says, "I despise corporations and corporate labels. This is the only way I could ensure myself and the other artists on Nepenthacea entire control over the creative process, design, release, and marketing. Besides that, I love the challenge and it's fun to do."

Being music gurus of the underground scene isn't their only occupation. By day, Stevens and David are book packers and Emerson is a student at UMASS. Any spare funds are donated towards the production and release of Nepenthacea's goods.

These goods consist of various artists on the label. To those who are unfamiliar with the sounds on Nepenthacea Devin Stevens, whose main project is noise related, gave a quick rendition, "Shhhhhhhxxxxxr-rrrr, bing, bing, khhhhh-hjkkkkkgggghhhh, ffffzzzz, beep."

For the noise illiterate, David made the sounds into words, "[They] represent a wide variety of sounds and styles. A few of these are: *Breathe Beneath*, whose sound is comparable to female-fronted ethereal/darkwave. *Black Dawn* is described as experimental "noise" with a personal approach. *Dreamscape Embodied*, as the name implies, tries to convey nocturnal imagery through sound. *Dreams of Abrasion*, which is a one-album project that I did back in early 1995. It could be summed up in three

words, dark, abrasive, and tormented. *Elysia and the Siren* performs atmospheric/ethereal lullaby-type songs. There's *Enclave*, a more electronic *Black Dawn* and then, *Ukuru*, who blends elements of techno, noise and ambient. There are many instrumental artists. Some of our stuff has been compared to the Cold Meat Industry label."

With Nepenthacea's two-year anniversary creeping closer they ponder how far they've come and if they like where they are. David had to wonder, "Is this an attempt to humor us? Seriously, the music has certainly progressed and we have our ideas and methods better worked out. Though, we have had some interest, any money and relevant recognition has

David finds the demand for their music could be a little more demanding. But he says, "I suppose we do have a somewhat limited appeal. And with chronic budget problems it's a bit hard to reach Those Who Might Care."

"We collectively publish a 'zine called 'From Dust,' a eclectic collection of musical information, stories, art, and photography. I publish 'The Hearse Enthusiast' and we have stickers. We are thinking of capturing the X-mas tree ornament market." Nepenthacea also produces "very little income" jokes David.

According to Stevens, Nepenthacea produces, "noxious gas and broken equipment."

Elysia David shared his thoughts on the future of underground music. Nepenthacea endeavors to stay away from the "pre-packaged plastic-wrapped, for your consumption corporate-controlled" popular music scene of today.

"I think there will always be

independent music in some form. Fifteen years ago, recording would have been well out of the range of most artists and distribution for a small band would be next to impossible. As the technology to record, publish/release, and distribute becomes more affordable and widely available, you'll naturally have a lot more people experimenting, creating, and releasing their own material without strict commercial influence."

As the underground scene continually morphs into different creations the artists on Nepenthacea have one piece of advice. "Throw off your presumptions, your corporate-trained ear, and find yourself. Find YOUR music."



Twelfth of Never, one of the bands available through Nepenthacea

been very slow to come. But, we are just getting started. Things will definitely pick up this year. [We have] a tour, a new catalogue, a bunch of new releases (including a new artist from Russia), the debut of our new label subdivision, Nepenthacea Noise, and a planned advertising thing. We'll see what happens. Ask us again another year or two from now." Stevens, a man of few words and a dry sense of humor, thinks he's barely made any progress; he might be where he wants to be and is happy there sometimes. Does he think there's a demand for Nepenthacea's type of music?

"People certainly aren't trampling the homeless to get to us, that's for sure."

Straight to Video

10 Things I Hate About You

by Colleen Montgomery

Gen X films have an established trend of remaking classic tales. "Clueless" was a remake of Jane Austen's "Emma"; "She's All That" was based on Shaw's "Pygmalion"; "Cruel Intentions" was a recreation of "Dangerous Liaisons" and Gil Junger's "10 Things I Hate About You," is a modern-day version of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew."

Like many of the high-school romance movies, the PG-13 rated film revolves around an unlikely couple and the ever-popular prom scene. However in this movie the prom scene does not end with a kiss that sends the couple into eternal happiness.

The movie follows the plot of the play faithfully, effectively transferring it from 16th century Italy to a modern high school in the southern California town of Padua.

The performances in a movie are what makes or breaks it, and here director Junger did very well with an inexperienced cast. As the main character, Stiles puts forth an incredible performance. She is one of a kind and did an unbelievable job.

Heath Ledger plays the good-looking Aussie, Patrick, who shares chemistry with Kat. Larissa Oleynik, as Bianca, is another actress who helped make this movie so terrific. She put herself into the character and made Bianca become less self-centered.

It is impossible for me to find 10 things I hate about "10 Things I Hate About You." I believe that Junger could not have constructed a better cast to deliver his script. Along with the film, there is a marvelous soundtrack available. The soundtrack mixes the "indie rock with the new wave '80s songs," as Patrick says during the movie.

At the conclusion of the film, I identified with Kat and felt her pain and happiness. I was extremely impressed with performances, especially with the feeling that the actors put into their roles. I was especially pleased with the final out come and I would suggest this film for all to see.

Up for a Lynching?

Continued from page 6

Now that his musical comedy has become the way he makes a living, acting has taken of the role of the hobby.

Once a small-time comedian, performing in even smaller clubs, Lynch can now claim fame to having his own live special on "Comedy Central Presents." The show aired last August and has been replayed many times since. Lynch said, "It was so neat doing that special live and being able to watch it later myself."

Every artist has his or her influences and Stephen does not defy the norm here. He admires the music of Bob Dylan and Paul Simon, whose influences may be apparent in Lynch's rock ballads. Although he can't pinpoint any comedic influences at this time in his life Lynch has opened for many well known comedians such as, Jeff Foxworthy and Steven Wright.

Now on tour, Lynch works four to five days a week (not including travel time), but manages to get home to New York every week for a couple of days. When not working he still enjoys writing songs, which he has been doing since before he can remember.

Lynch's debut CD "A Little Bit Special" captures his unique comic sense with songs such as "Gerbil," "Jim Henson" and "Hermaphrodite." Still stuck on the normal thing? Than ask yourself this: do guys usually sleep with their dead ex-girlfriends?

This is the plot of his disturbingly funny song, "A Month Dead." Selections from the witty, wowing yet grotesque album will be performed at the show in the Pub on the 29th. Those wishing to purchase the album won't be able to find it locally as there are no stores in Massachusettes carrying it. But don't fret. The CD can be purchased online at Amazon.com, CDNOW.com or from Lynch's own record company found at www.stephenlynch.com.



SITES TO BEHOLD

by Ben Reed

I'm a frequent web surfer. I've procrastinated many papers by going online and searching for fun or interesting web sites. There's a lot of junk out there in cyberspace and to prevent you from wasting your time, The Point has asked me weed out that junk for you, and bring you the very best in websites, so you don't have to waste your time finding them. What could be better than that?

The computer at work has this program called Weatherbug installed on it. Created by Automated Weather Service Inc., the site, www.weatherbug.com, offers a free download for you. After installing the program you can receive up to date weather forecasts for practically any area in the country. With a click of the button I instantly saw the current temperature, wind direction, wind chill, barometric pressure, sunrise and sunset times, and all sorts of other quick weather facts.

Another nice feature of the Weatherbug is that it alerts you when the latest storm advisories have been updated. During last weeks snowstorm I had my bug sitting in my taskbar next to my clock. The temperature display blinked when it received the update, and with a simple click of the mouse, I knew when the storm would hit and how much snow we would get.

For this program to work you'll need to be connected to the Internet. If you live on campus this isn't a problem provided you have the Ethernet connection. It requires some disk space, but not much, you won't need a super computer to run this.

Don't be surprised though. When you download Weatherbug you will also be getting another free program, Attune. This program notifies you when your computer may need updating or setting changes. It's a long process that takes a few days because the program is constantly updating itself, checking your computer's systems and files. I didn't want to wait so I uninstalled it with no problems.

Now the question is, do you need this program? Of course you don't need it! It's just as easy to watch the television or read the newspaper to find out the local weather. Just think though, how popular you will become when you shout off in class how much rain Fitchburg has gotten this month, or what storm center is approaching central Massachusetts. Well...maybe you won't be that cool, but at the very least you'll have something new to occupy your time until next week.

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TAKE A HIKE!

By Tim Daoust

There seems to be a lack of exercise in the winter, and the superfluous meals that accompany the holiday season don't help to keep the body in shape. That's why I began my search for a physical activity, other than skiing or snowboarding, that would be possible during this season and still provide sufficient exercise.

Through my friend, Jeremy Sparks, I discovered that snowshoeing is still a popular sport during the winter. I had doubts about my coordination and my ability, but decided to check it out. On a recent Saturday, Jeremy and I made our way to Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, the "Most Climbed Mountain in the World."



Approaching the mountain, I looked up at the summit and saw snowdrifts blowing from it. The temperature that day was 37 degrees at sea level and 15 degrees on the summit (not counting the wind chill). The thought of how cold I was going to be, of how long it was going to take to climb that 3,265 feet, made my clench my fists tightly. I was already starting to resent this sport, but Jeremy assured me there would be no problem.

He was clamping on the snowshoes that he said were "absolutely essential" in order to tackle the snow-covered mountain. I clamped mine on as well and we were off.

I found the first 40 minutes to be the most physically demanding due to the slow incline and the pressure to keep up with Jeremy. When we reached the first clearing on the Marlboro Trail on the northwestern face, the view made the struggle worth it.

Continued on page 11

attention all students

The Student Government Association has many open positions to fill!

Executive Board:

Secretary

Class of 2001:

Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & four Reps

Class of 2002:

Secretary, Treasurer and four Representatives

Class of 2003:

Three representatives

Commuters Board:

Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and four Representatives

If you are interested in one of these positions, please call extension 300 or come to the weekly SGA Council meetings Tuesday 6:30 pm in the Hammond Alumni Rooms

come let your voice be heard

Now that sounds fair

Continued from page 5

Texas and Harvard Law School. He is the author of "All You Need To Know About The Music Business."

At the expo, diverse panels of music professionals will discuss real-world strategies for success in all realms of the music industry, and provide answers based on their expertise in a variety of music-related fields. Panel topics will include "Technology Impact — Napster: Good or Evil?", "Paths for Classical Musicians", "Multimedia Opportunities", "A&R Demo Derby" (musicians are encouraged to bring their demo), and others.

Workshop sessions will provide more focused, small-group interactions with individual panelists. Specialized workshops will be led by industry representatives and will cover a variety of music career options and topics including "Record Production on a Budget", "How to Place Your Songs on Radio", "Film Scoring/Composition", and "Inside the Record Deal."

Among the panel moderators will be Mike Dreese (Berklee trustee, and CEO, Newbury Comics); Don Rose (Berklee trustee, and Chairman, Rykodisc); Paul Foley (General Manager, Rounder Records); Maurice Methot (Professor of Media and Visual Arts, Emerson College); and Mark Kates (President, Grand Royal Records).

Workshop leaders include Leanne Summers (Leanne Summers Vocal Studio, and Berklee trustee); Jeff Dorenfeld (Associate Professor, Berklee College of Music); Mason Daring (Film Score Composer); Panos Panay (President, SonicBids.com); Richard Bass (Special Programs Coordinator, The Boston Conservatory); Bryon Turcotte (Manager of Artist Relations/Independent Music, Dot Click); Maggie Lange (Assistant Professor, Berklee College of Music, and Music Attorney, Perkins, Smith & Cohen); and Paul Wennik (Berklee trustee). For the latest on panels, panelists and workshops visit www.berklee.edu or call (617) 747-8970.

Representatives from area and national music companies will be in the exhibition hall at the Hynes: record labels, entertainment companies, radio stations, music software and multimedia companies, CD and music distributors, instrument retailers, the musicians' union, and numerous nonprofit arts organizations ranging from the worlds of pop music to classical to jazz.

Exhibitors will feature information on services and resources designed to help participants grow in their music careers. Among the exhibitors are the Boston Musicians Association, Daddy's Junky Music, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, M. Steinert & Sons, Northeast Performer, The Recording Academy of New York, Mark of the Unicorn, Radio Boston.com, WBCN 104.1 FM and HOT 97.7 FM and WILD 1090 AM.

In the evening, several companies will also offer employment opportunity presentations and provide first-stage employment interviews where there is a mutual interest. Individuals seeking employment are encouraged to bring their resume. Companies recruiting at the event include Tweeter; Boston Public Schools; Sweetwater Sound; Carney, Sandoe & Associates; and Cakewalk Music Software. Companies seeking performers include Walt Disney Entertainment; The Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles; and ProShip Entertainment, the largest provider of cruise talent in the world.

This year's expo will also feature a Berklee College of Music student and alumni music showcase in the afternoon. Selected by a judging committee made up of Berklee faculty, alumni, and students, a variety of singer/songwriters and bands will perform. A listening station also will be available so that audiences can hear CDs of all the student and alumni music that was submitted for this opportunity.

COMIN' DOWN THE MOUNTAIN...

Continued from page 9

I saw one side of the mountain covered in a cascade of evergreens and capped with snow. The view to the north revealed more panoramic vistas: Stratton Mountain, Mt. Snow, Waterville Valley, Mt. Sunapee and many more. "On a clear day, you can even see Mt. Washington," said Jeremy.

After I caught my breath, I saw

we still had a considerable distance to go before reaching the summit. We headed out on the trail as it turn up the north face of the mountain. During this part of the trek, Jeremy's snowshoes broke and he had to use his crampons for the rest of the hike.

The spikes were perfect for the slippery inclines on the steep granite slopes. However, the snow was deep and that's where the snow-

shoes came in handy. While I was standing on the surface of the snow, Jeremy was sunk up to his knees. Despite this difficulty, we eventually reached the summit.

It was a different world up there. I have never felt so awkward in an environment. There are rich amounts of granite, completely covered with snow crystalized to ice forming unique patterns that

cracked under our feet. After a quick lunch, we started our descent, which took about an hour. We jumped into the deep snow and coasted down the mountain. It was quite an invigorating experience.

If you get the chance, I encourage you to hike Mt. Monadnock. It's not a tough climb and is actually quite close to Fitchburg; only a 30 minute drive.

rude

Continued from page 3

to smile, and cheerfully provide courteous service.

I don't think that is right either. Explaining and then upholding store policy is the right thing to do. You simply say, "Sir, this is 12 items or less and you will have to go to another lane. I am sorry."

If he rants and raves, you can smile and ask him, "If you were the lady behind you with just one item, would you think that was fair?"

Staying cool under extreme pressure is the key. Sticking to policy, and being confident and collected, will get you further than being rude.

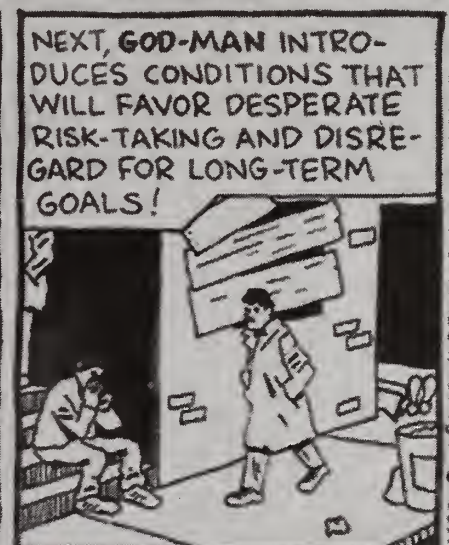
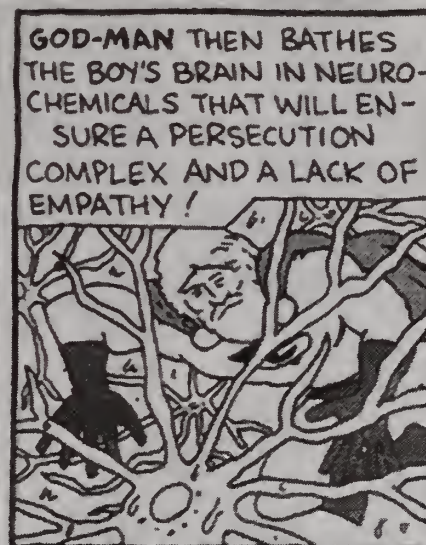
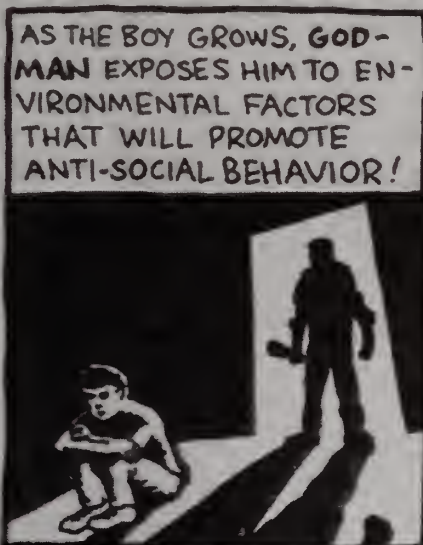
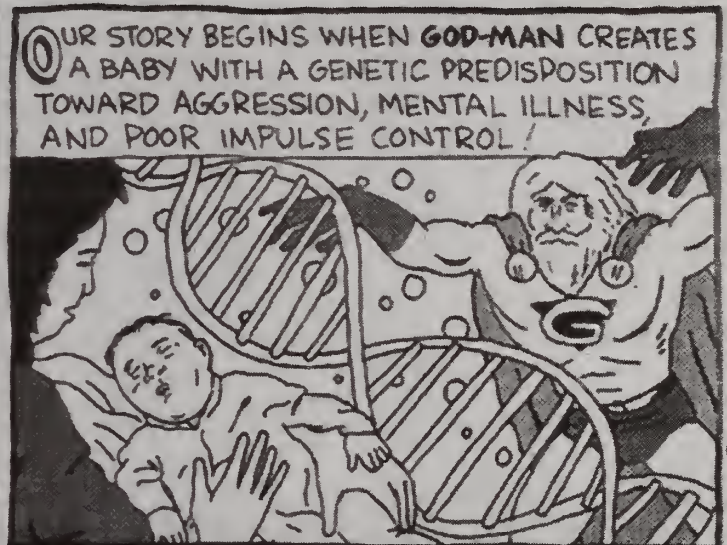
Giving simple explanations will make the rude customer look bad instead of you. So the next time a customer says, "That girl can't cashier. She didn't take off my 10-cent coupon," even though what you want to say is, "Here, take this dime from my pocket, you cheap..." you instead smile and respond with, "I'm sorry, let me take that coupon off for you." This decreases tension.

The biggest thing to remember is that you have your dignity. Why put someone down and bring yourself to their level? Staying calm and unaffected by the rude behavior is the best way to cool the situation down. Not only will the tension be gone, but you'll look better in the eyes of others.

The bottom line in customer service, and in life, is that it's better to be helpful than to be helpless. You can be the best employee, and the best person, if you can handle situations and keep them under control.



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SPORTS

by Shaun Moriarty

A special welcome back to the Fitchburg State College winter athletes, coaches and fans.

BASKETBALL

Just a little more than halfway through the regular season, the men's basketball team has compiled a 5-8 record.

On Thursday, January 25, the Fitchburg State Falcons travel to North Adams to take on the Mohawks of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Game time is scheduled for 7:30 P.M.

Then on Saturday, January 27, the Falcons will host the Bridgewater State Bears with a tip-off scheduled for 3 P.M. The Falcons are 3-2 at home thus far this year.

The Women's basketball team, like the men's, are 5-8 so far this year. They will also travel to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts on Thursday, their game time is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. The female Falcons will then host Bridgewater State on Saturday, with the tip-off scheduled for 1 P.M.



HOCKEY

The hockey team is 6-9-0 thus far this winter season after going 18-6-4 last season. The Falcons will host two games this week, both will be played at the Wallace Civic Center. Nichols College's Bisons will travel to Fitchburg on Thursday, January 25. The puck will drop at 7 P.M.

On Saturday, January 27, the UMass Dartmouth Corsairs will make the trip to the Wallace Civic Center to battle with the Falcons. The Corsairs are 8-5-1 so far this winter and the game is scheduled for 7 P.M.

TRACK

The men's and women's track and field teams will be taking part in the Terrier Classic on Friday and Saturday. Meet times are to be announced.

Finally, I'd like to induce you onto the new sports staff. If you'd like to join the sports staff let us know here at the Point. Also if you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts for or about the new sports department, let me know at Shaunmoriarty@hotmail.com or at the Point (point@fsc.edu).

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High Risers triumph in FSC 3 on 3 Hoops Tournament

By Skip Daily IV

Manny DeBarros' High Risers faced off against the Reynolds Brothers' Joe's Knife in the Finals of the FSC Intramural 3 on 3 Hoops Championship. Both Teams took undefeated records into the Playoffs. The High Risers (Manny DeBarros, John Rice, and Emanuel Allen) won their semi-final games handily over the scrappy MacGuire's who pushed them every point.

While watching the other semi-final that matched-up, Army vs. Joe's Knife, John Rice of the High Risers commented, "I don't want to play those guys in black (Joe's Knife). They are hustlers." The boys in black had a battle with Army, but advanced to the Finals by winning the deciding game of their best of 3 match 22 to 12.

In the first game of the finals, the High Risers took an early 15-3 lead and coasted to the victory. It wasn't going to be that easy though. Joe's Knife proved to be as tough as Rice predicted. After falling down 13-6 quickly they fought back and overcame the High Risers 21-19. You could see the determination on Brian Reynolds face as he fought for rebounds against the much taller High Risers. In the end, the High Risers' strength and skill proved to be too much and they took the final game 21-12. I commend both teams hard work and sportsmanship. They couldn't have been fiercer competitors on the court, but when the finals ended, they showed their respect for one another by sharing handshakes and hugs.

